

*Justice Charles Johnson*

*Supreme Court Rules Committee*

*c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court*

*P.O. Box 40929*

*Olympia, WA 98504-0929*

*RE: Proposed JuCR 1.6 – Physical Restraints in the Courtroom*

*Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Rules Committee:*

I am the Youth and Family Coordinator for Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) in the Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration in DSHS.

As a former juvenile offender and dependent youth, I appeared in court in shackles multiple times for running away, status offenses and felony crimes. I share the concerns raised in these letters. I too felt the shame of being the only person in the courtroom handicapped by chains; the humiliation of being paraded through the courtroom in shackles in front of strangers and the lack of support and interest in my case from my attorneys in part due to my stigmatization by the chains on my feet and wrists.

Thank you for considering this important matter. Youth involved in the juvenile justice system in Washington are counting on you to bring Washington in line with the other states around the country that are banning this inhumane practice.

Sincerely

Starcia Ague